

List of Claims

1. (original) A filter assembly comprising:
a center support having a filter head attachment adjacent one end, a bowl attachment adjacent an opposite end, and a plurality of radial openings disposed in said center support and being located between said ends; and
a metallic screen filter element mounted around said center support.
2. (currently amended) The filter assembly of claim 1 including a bowl attached to said bowl attachment; and
said metallic filter element being surrounded by said bowl.
3. (original) The filter assembly of claim 2 including a filter head attached to said filter head attachment; and
an annular seal between said bowl and said filter head.
4. (original) The filter assembly of claim 3 wherein said center support includes a plastic center tube.
5. (original) The filter assembly of claim 4 including a first end cap in contact with said metallic screen and said center support adjacent said one end; and
a second end cap in contact with said metallic screen and said center support adjacent said opposite end.
6. (original) The filter assembly of claim 5 wherein said first and second end caps are removably attached to said center support.
7. (original) The filter assembly of claim 1 including a hydrophobic coating on said metallic screen filter element.
8. (original) The filter assembly of claim 3 wherein said center support is permanently affixed to said metallic screen filter element;

whereby said center support is necessary for connecting said bowl in sealing contact with said filter head.

9. (previously presented) A plurality of engines comprising:
a portion of said engines including a filter assembly according to claim 1; and
another portion of said engines including a filter assembly according to claim 1 ,
except with a paper filter element substituted in place of the metallic screen filter element.

10. (original) The engines of claim 9 wherein said filter assembly of each engine includes an identical center support.

11. (original) The engines of claim 10 wherein said identical center support includes a center tube.

12. (original) A method of servicing a filtration portion of a fluid system for an engine, comprising the steps of:

detaching a center support from a filter head;
detaching the center support from a bowl;
washing a metallic screen filter element which is attached to the center support;
re-attaching the center support to the bowl; and
re-attaching the center support to the filter head.

13. (original) The method of claim 12 wherein said washing step includes the steps of:

detaching the metallic screen filter element from the center support;
cleaning the metallic screen filter element; and
re-attaching the metallic screen filter element to a center support.

14. (original) A method of servicing a filtration portion of a fluid system for an engine, comprising the steps of:

detaching a center support from a filter head;

detaching the center support, which is attached to one of a paper filter element and a metallic screen filter element, from a bowl;

attaching a replacement center support, which is attached to an other of a paper filter element and a metallic screen filter element, to the bowl; and

attaching the replacement center support to the filter head.